



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 12 2010

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator
Northeast Region
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298


Dear Ms. Kurkul:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's draft supplemental environmental impact statement (DEIS) for Amendment 11 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish (MSB) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) (CEQ No. 20100335).

The purposes of Amendment 11 are to: establish an Atlantic mackerel (mackerel) limited access program; update MSB essential fish habitat; establish a mackerel recreational allocation (to facilitate administering annual catch limits and accountability measures); and establish a cap to limit the at-sea processing of mackerel. Based on our review of the draft supplemental EIS, we have no objections to the proposed action.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this draft supplemental EIS. The staff contact for this review is Aimee Hessert (hessert.aimee@epa.gov; 202-564-0993).

Sincerely,


for Susan E. Bromm
Director
Office of Federal Activities

cc: Steve Kokkinakis, NOAA Office of Strategic Planning